

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 03305 061801Z

62

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DODE-00 MMS-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01

NEA-11 SS-20 L-03 H-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSC-10 DRC-01

/120 W

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R 061711Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6646

INFO USNATO 3490

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T PARIS 3305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK IO FR

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 19913

1. WITH LONDONS APPROVAL , UK EMBASSY PARIS MADE LOW KEY APPROACH TO FRENCH, FEBRUARY 5, CONCERNING DIEGO GARCIA. UK FIRST SECRETARY, ARMED BY MATERIALS PROVIDED BY US, SPOKE TO QUAI UK DESK OFFICER WHO WAS JOINED BY SOMEONE FROM THE TREATIES AND DISARMAMENT SECTION. ACCORDING TO UK EMBOFF, THE FRENCH TOOK NOTES BUT HAD NO QUESTIONS. THEY CONSIDERED EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES TO BE A NATURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD MAKE NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS. IN FACT, FRENCH THOUGHT AN INCREASED US ROLE IN THE AREA WAS NOW CALLED FOR IN LIGHT OF RECENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, (THAT IS, POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY AFTER OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL). FRENCH ALSO NOTED THAT \$29 MILLION BASICALLY DID NOT REPRESENT A GREAT EXPENDITURE. UK REP ASKED THAT QUAI PASS HIS INFO ALONG TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL AT MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 03305 061801Z

2. UK EMBASSY HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE SIMILARLY GIVE ONLY
LOW LEVEL AND LOW KEY TREATMENT TO DIEGO GARCIA
CONSTRUCTION SINCE SOME IN GOF ARE STILL SOMEWHAT
SENSITIVE TO WHAT THEY MAY PERCEIVE AS VESTIAGE OF
US-UK "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP." WE WILL NOT MAKE A
FORMAL "FOLLOW-UP" DEMARCHE AT QUAI, BUT WILL BE READY TO ANSWER
QUESTIONS AT QUAI AND MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES OR WORKING
LEVEL.
IRWIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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30 JUN 2005

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